Claims

We claim:

1. An adverse weather headlamp system comprising at least one lamp assembly having:

   a. at least one reflector;

   b. at least one light source positioned within the at least one reflector; and

   c. at least one foreground shield located in front of the at least one light source, wherein the foreground shield has two sides that taper up from a bottom portion of the foreground shield to form a triangular shaped shield.

2. The headlamp system of claim 1, further comprising at least one lens positioned and located in front of the at least one light source and the at least one reflector.

3. The headlamp system of claim 2, further comprising at least one cutoff shield positioned below the foreground shield.

4. The headlamp system of claim 3, wherein the at least one lamp assembly comprises a first front lamp assembly and a second front lamp assembly each containing one of the at least one foreground shields.

5. The headlamp system of claim 4, wherein only the first lamp assembly contains the at least one foreground shield.

6. The headlamp system of claim 1, wherein the at least one lamp assembly comprises a first and a second high/low beam front lamp assembly and at least one driving lamp that contains the at least one foreground shield.

7. The headlamp system of claim 6, wherein the at least one driving lamp comprises one driving lamp.

8. The headlamp system of claim 6, wherein the at least one driving lamp comprises

two driving lamps that each contain at least one foreground shield.

9. The headlamp system of claim 4, wherein the first front lamp assembly comprises a first high beam compartment and a first low beam compartment and wherein the second front lamp assembly comprises a second high beam compartment and a second low beam compartment, wherein the first and second low beam compartments each contain the at least one foreground shields.

10. The headlamp system of claim 9, wherein only the first low beam compartment contains the at least one foreground shield.

11. The headlamp system of claim 4, wherein the first and second front lamp assemblies each comprise a high beam/low beam projector headlamp assembly.

12. The headlamp system of claim 11, wherein the at least one foreground shield in each headlamp assembly is movable between a blocking position and a pass-through position.

13. The headlamp system of claim 12, wherein the at least one cutoff shield of each headlamp assembly is movable between a blocking position and a pass-through position.

14. The headlamp system of claim 13, further comprising at least one actuator mechanically connected to the at least one foreground shield and cutoff shield, wherein the actuator moves the foreground shield and cutoff shield between each of their blocking positions and pass-through positions.

15. The headlamp system of claim 14, wherein the actuator comprises a stepper motor.

16. The headlamp system of claim 14, wherein the actuator comprises a solenoid.

17. The headlamp system of claim 11, wherein only the first front lamp assembly contains the foreground shield.

18. The headlamp system of claim 17, wherein the at least one foreground shield is

movable between a blocking position and pass-through position.

19. The headlamp system of claim 1, wherein the bottom portion is centered and radiused.

20. The headlamp system of claim 1, wherein the bottom portion is centered and forms a point.

21. The headlamp system of claim 1, wherein the bottom portion is centered and forms a flat edge.

22. The headlamp system of claim 1, wherein the foreground shield's sides have jagged edges.

23. A method of reducing glare emitted by an adverse weather headlamp system, comprising the steps of:

a. providing at least one lamp assembly having

(i) at least one light source; and

(ii) a foreground shield located in front of the at least one light source, wherein the foreground shield has two sides that taper up from a bottom portion of the foreground shield to form a triangular shaped shield;

b. emitting light from the at least one light source; and

c. blocking a portion of the emitted light with the foreground shield in order to produce a reduced low beam pattern.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of moving the foreground shield between a pass-through position and a blocking position.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the lamp assembly further has a cutoff shield positioned below the foreground shield.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the steps of moving the cutoff shield and the foreground between a pass-through position and a blocking position, in order to form a high beam light pattern, a low beam light pattern and a reduced low beam light pattern.

27. An adverse weather headlamp system comprising at least one lamp assembly having:

a. at least one reflector;

b. at least one light source positioned within the reflector;

c. at least one lens positioned in front of the at least one light source and reflector in order to form a light pattern;

d. a cutoff shield located in between the at least one light source and the at least one reflector; and

e. a foreground shield with a top portion and a bottom portion located in between the at least one light source and lens, wherein the top portion of the foreground shield has a width that is substantially greater than the bottom portion of the foreground shield.